

Claims:

1. The use of an oligonucleotide probe comprising exon 15 of the BRAF gene or a part thereof comprising codon 599 or the counterstrands thereto for the detection of the malignancy of melanoma cells.
2. The use of an oligonucleotide probe according to claim 1 wherein an oligonucleotide comprising the sequence **Seq. ID No. 1** or an oligonucleotide comprising a sequence complementary to **Seq. ID No. 1** or a part of said sequences comprising codon 599 or an allelic variant thereof is used for the detection of the malignancy of melanoma cells.
3. The use of an oligonucleotide probe according to claim 1 or 2 wherein codon 599 is bearing a mutation.
4. The use of an oligonucleotide probe according to claim 1 or 2 wherein an codon 599 codes for an amino acid selected from the group consisting of valine (Val, V), glutamic acid (Glu, E) and aspartic acid (Asp, D)
5. The use of an oligonucleotide probe according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises a sequence according to **Seq. ID No. 5** or **Seq. ID No. 6** or a sequence complementary to **Seq. ID No. 5** or **Seq. ID No. 6** or a sequence with an homology of over 80% to said sequences.
6. A method for the detection of the malignancy of melanoma cells wherein the presence of a mutation in codon 599 in exon 15 of the BRAF gene or a part thereof comprising codon 599 is determined.
7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the presence of a mutation in codon 599 leading to a replacement of valine (wildtyp) into glutamic acid (Glu, E) or aspartic acid (Asp, D) is determined.

8. A method according to claim 6 or 7 wherein the detection of a mutation in codon 599 is carried out by sequencing of exon 15 of the BRAF gene or a part thereof comprising codon 599 or by hybridising exon 15 oligonucleotide of the BRAF gene or a part thereof comprising codon 599 with a reporter oligonucleotide with a sequence complementary to the exon 15 sequence of the BRAF gene or a part thereof.
9. The use of reporter oligonucleotides comprising a sequence **Seq. ID No. 5** or **Seq. ID No. 6** or a sequence with an homology of over 80% to **Seq. ID No. 5** or **Seq. ID No. 6** or a sequence complementary to said sequences for the determination of the malignancy of melanoma cells.
10. Labelled reporter oligonucleotides comprising a sequence **Seq. ID No. 5** or **Seq. ID No. 6** or a sequence with an homology of over 80% to **Seq. ID No. 5** or **Seq. ID No. 6** or a sequence complementary to said sequences.